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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON POTENTIAL GOOGLE PARTNERSHIP

Google Seeking "Trial Location" for Fiber Optic Network

Burlington, VT – February 26, 2010. The City of Burlington will hold a public meeting on March 4, 6:30 pm to 8 pm, at Contois Auditorium, for residents, businesses and community organizations to provide input on a potential partnership with Google on a fiber-optic network in Burlington.

Google recently announced a plan to establish a fiber network in one or more trial communities across the country. Google's intent is to "deliver Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today, over 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections." Google is accepting responses from interested municipalities through a "Request for Information" (RFI) process, with a deadline for responses of March 26.

The City of Burlington is currently in the process of drafting an RFI in response to Google and would like to hear from the public about partnering with Google. Residents can also go to a special page on the City website www.ci.burlington.vt.us/mayor/google for more information; check out the Facebook page Burlington for Google Fiber; email btv-google@ci.burlington.vt.us; or call the Mayor's Office at 865-7272.

"Burlington is in a unique position to respond to Google with a fiber system already in place," said Mayor Bob Kiss. "We look forward to hearing from the public about this potential partnership."

Interested municipalities will be judged, in part, on the level of community support for a partnership with Google. The City encourages members of the public who support the idea to express their support through joining the Facebook page, attending the March 4 public meeting, and/or sending an e-mail. There will be more information at the meeting about how the public can be involved with the City's response to the RFI.

More information about the Google effort can be found at: www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/.

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